GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:757
ANSWERED ON:21.07.2016
Decline in Handloom Weavers
Sahu Shri Lakhan Lal

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been steady decline in the number of weavers engaged in the handloom industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last two years and the current year, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government is contemplating to prepare a long term policy to solve the said problem; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF TEXTILES
(SMT. SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a) & (b): Yes Madam. So far, three handloom censuses have been conducted by the Ministry of Textiles which indicates that there has been decline in the number of weavers engaged in the handloom industries. As per first handloom census (1987-88), there were 67.39 lakh handloom workers across the country which was reduced to 65.50 lakh during second handloom census (1995-96). Further, these declined to 43.31 lakh, during third handloom census (2009-10). State-wise statement is annexed. However, share of full-time weavers to total weavers increased to 64% from 44% and share of idle looms decreased to 4% from 10% in third handloom census as compared to second handlooms census.

(c) & (d): To Government has made a strategy to promote production and marketing of high value good quality handloom products for increasing earnings of weavers. To implement this strategy, the following schemes are under implementation:-

(i) National Handloom Development Programme (NHDP)
(ii) Comprehensive Handloom Cluster Development Scheme (CHCDS)
(iii) Yarn Supply Scheme
(iv) Handloom Weavers Comprehensive Welfare Scheme.

Annexure

Status of Total Handloom workers as per 1st, 2nd and 3rd Handloom Census

S. No. State Name Nos. of Total workers (1987-88) Nos. of Total workers (1995-96) Nos. of Total workers (2009-10)
1 Andhra Pradesh 469,086 490,616 355,838
2 Arunachal Pradesh 47,400 53,473 33,041
3 Assam 2,079,238 2,322,268 1,643,453
4 Bihar 241,298 167,707 43,392
5 Chhattisgarh 8,191
6 Delhi 19,727 6,708 2,738
7 Goa 109 25 0
8 Gujarat 69,320 57,936 11,009
9 Haryana 37,640 22,810 7,967
10 Himachal Pradesh 55,387 65,099 13,458
11 Jammu and Kashmir 53,503 51,847 33,209
12 Jharkhand 21,160
13 Karnataka 188,749 177,562 89,256
14 Kerala 78,595 63,153 14,679
15 Madhya Pradesh 79,473 56,106 14,761
16 Maharashtra 147,478 80,901 3,418
17 Manipur 336,954 462,087 218,753
18 Meghalaya 13,612
19 Mizoram 43,528
20 Nagaland 147,617 126,228 66,490
21 Orissa 247,071 246,782 114,106
22 Pondicherry 9,207 7,369 2,803

23 Punjab 24,423 13,160 2,636
24 Rajasthan 84,769 71,915 31,958
25 Sikkim 568
26 Tamil Nadu 758,722 607,675 352,321
27 Tripura 138,886 291,761 137,177
28 Uttar Pradesh 657,987 420,684 257,783
29 Uttarakhand 15,468
30 West Bengal 766,808 686,254 779,103
Total 6,739,447 6,550,126 4,331,876

The table (1995-96) excludes 3 States viz. Meghalaya, Mizoram, Sikkim & 3 new States Chhattisgarh, Uttrakhand, Jharkhand.

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